

of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to the entrance side of a fit-holding portion formed on the [[an]] opening face of the fitted element or on the fitting element side are higher than those located on an interior side of a fit-holding portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The sealing element according to claim 12, wherein the coupling feature comprises a plurality of fitting ribs, and among the plurality of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to the entrance side of a fit-holding portion formed on the opening face of the fitted element or on the fitting element side are higher than those located on the interior side of the fit-holding portion.
5. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein at least a length of the first protruding part is set curved inwardly in a direction of squeezing and towards the open front of the fitted element so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.
6. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 12, wherein at least a length of the first protruding part is set curved inwardly in a direction of squeezing and towards the open front of the fitted element so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.
7. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 3, wherein at least a length of the first protruding part is set curved inwardly in a direction of squeezing and towards the open front of the fitted element so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.

8. (Currently Amended) The sealing element according to claim 4, wherein at least a length of the first protruding part is set curved inwardly in a direction of squeezing and towards the open front of the fitted element so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.
9. (Currently Amended) A hermetic container comprising:
- a container body having an opening face;
 - a door element to be detachably fitted to the opening face of the container body, wherein the container body is of a front-open box type container body; and
 - an elastically deformably sealing element interposed between the opening face and the door element,
- characterized in that a fit-holding portion is formed by notching either the inner periphery of the opening face of the container body or the outer periphery of the door element, and the sealing element comprises: an endless portion to be fitted into the fit-holding portion and having at least two surfaces, wherein a face of the sealing element seats flush against one wall that defines the fit-holding portion; a flexible protruding part projected from the endless portion, obliquely and outwardly with respect to the opening face of the container body, forming a substantially acute angle between itself and the contact surface of the door element or the contact surface of the opening face of the container body; and a coupling feature having a projection formed on at least one of a surface of the endless portion and fitted in contact with a compartmentalized inner wall of the fit-holding portion, wherein the protruding part is formed in a tapered configuration which becomes gradually narrower from the proximal part toward the distal end.
10. (Original) The hermetic container according to claim 9, wherein the sealing element is formed using a fluororubber composition.

11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) The sealing element according to claim 1, wherein a vertical wall or projection having a vertical wall for positioning is formed on an opposite wall of the protruding element.